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Bush resignation statement triggers new CIA speculation

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George Bush, who became director of the Central Intelligence Agency less than a year ago, has put an end to speculation that he might stay on for six months or so as agency director by announcing that he "would not remain as director after Jan. 20."

His announcement was unusual in that all top-level administration officials automatically resign at the end of a president's term of office. But he apparently deemed it necessary to make the public statement in order to scotch rumors that President-Elect Carter might want to keep him on for a while although he is of the opposing party, much as President Kennedy installed a Republican, John McCone, as CIA director.

This speculation had seemed particularly plausible in view of the desirability of bipartisan management of the CIA at a time when its operations have been under intensive investigation and criticism. Mr. Bush, who had previously occupied posts as Ambassador to the United Nations, as GOP party chairman, and U.S. Ambassador to China, is considered to have done an outstanding job in restoring CIA morale and in reorganizing the agency. His nomination as CIA director was criticized in the Senate, however, because of his close identification with the Republican Party. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee approved his appointment only after President Ford had given assurances that he would not consider him as candidate for the vice-presidency.

The announcement of Mr. Bush's determination to put an end to his association with the CIA coincided with the announcement by Ray S. Cline, a former intelligence chief, of a book, "Secrets, Spies and Scholars," in which he proposes a total reorganization of U.S. intelligence.

Dr. Cline, who is now director of studies for Georgetown University's Center for Strategic Studies, formerly served as deputy director of the CIA and later as director of research and intelligence for the State Department.

Asked whether publication of his book at this time paved the way to put his hat in the ring for renewed appointment to a high intelligence post, Dr. Cline said he would not like to comment on a job which had not been offered to him.

In the book, published by Acropolis Books, Ltd., of Washington, Dr. Cline recommends a separation of CIA's covert and analytical functions. The director of the CIA, under a new title, would be elevated to Cabinet level and would unite under his direction all intelligence analysts of the U.S. Government. But he would not deal with covert operations — espionage and other undercover work — which would be gathered in a small, highly secret and professional unit directly attached to the White House.

Dr. Cline says he considers it essential that men dealing with purely analytical tasks should not share direct secret-service operations.

In his book he has, as he says in the preface, broken "the traditional silence of the professional intelligence officer after 30 years of keeping secrets." But he has with few exceptions avoided naming names except to give credit.

One of the exceptions is his criticism of former President Nixon and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger for "keeping secret the negotiating process" beyond the needs of diplomacy. It is his belief that intelligence should be shared at the highest government levels regardless of inter-agency jealousies.